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63-71.) At the time there was no English equivalent to German usage.

W. A. Horn, in *The New Illustrated Magazine* (London, March, 1897, pp. 597-605), gives a vivid description of the Eremian or Solitary Desert region of Australia. The surface of this deflated plain is described as strewn with "bare shining stones, having a polished surface, from the sand continually blowing over them. They are locally known as 'gibbers' (hard g.)." Those who have occasion to employ a name for such pebbles now have an extended choice of German and Greek compounds and English gibberish.

J. B. WOODWORTH.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MATHEMATICIANS AT ZURICH IN 1897.

"It is known that the idea of an international congress of mathematicians has been, above all in these latter days, the object of numerous deliberations on the part of scientists interested in its realization. It has appeared to them, by reason of the excellent results obtained in other scientific domains by an international 'entente,' that assuring the execution of this project would have very weighty advantages.

"As the outcome of a very active exchange of views, accord was reached on a prime point. Switzerland, by its central geographic situation, by its traditions and its experience of international congresses, appeared designated to invite a first attempt at a reunion of mathematicians. In consequence Zurich is chosen as the seat of the congress.

"The mathematicians of Zurich do not disguise from themselves the difficulties they will have to surmount. But in the interest of this enterprise they have thought it their duty not to decline the flattering overtures that have been made them from all sides. They have decided, therefore, to take all preparatory measures for the future congress and, to the extent of their powers, to contribute to its success. So, with the concurrence of mathematicians of other nations, was formed the undersigned committee of organization, charged to bring together, at Zurich in 1897, the mathematicians of the entire world.

"The congress, in which you are cordially in-

vited to take part, will take place at Zurich the 9th, 10th and 11th of August, 1897, in the halls of the Federal Polytechnic School. The committee will not fail to communicate to you, in time, the text of the program determined, begging you to inform them of your adherence. But even at present it may be said that the scientific contributions and questions of policy will pertain to subjects of general interest or recognized importance.

"Scientific congresses have also this great advantage, to favor and keep up personal relations. The local committee will not fail to give great care to this part of its task, and, with this aim, it will arrange a program of fêtes and social reunions.

"May the hopes reposed in this first congress be fully realized! May numerous participants contribute by their presence to create, among colleagues, not alone coherent scientific relations, but also cordial bonds based on personal acquaintance!

"Finally, may our congress serve the advancement and the progress of the mathematical sciences!"

The invitation of which the above is a translation is signed by eleven from Zurich and ten associates, as committee.

Readers of SCIENCE already know of the persistent efforts of Vasiliev, of Kazan, and Laisant, of Paris, to establish this congress. It is matter for rejoicing that their noble endeavors have been crowned with this definite success.

GEORGE BRUCE HALSTED.

A NEW GEOGRAPHICAL MAGAZINE.

THE appearance of a new geographical magazine* is a matter for both congratulation and regret. The magazine referred to is designed to furnish authentic and well-selected geographical data for the use of school teachers, and the opening number gives promise that much good may be expected from it in this direction. The articles presented seem well adapted to the audience addressed and are scarcely open to

* *The Journal of School Geography*. R. E. Dodge, responsible editor; W. M. Davis, C. W. Hayes, H. B. Kümmel, F. M. McMurphy and R. DeC. Ward, associate editors. Published at Lancaster, Pa. Price, \$1.00 a year.